

The Southeast News

VOLUME X, NUMBER 8

JUNE 1962

Southern Union College Commencement Exercises

Southern Union College granted the degree of Associate in Arts to the nineteen members of its graduating class in exercises held on Sunday, June 3rd.

In the morning the graduates and their families and friends of the college heard Dr. J. Kenneth Kohler, Executive Secretary of the Churchmen's Brotherhood of the Evangelical and Reformed Church, deliver the Baccalaureate Sermon on "The World and Me."

The graduates received their degrees at the commencement exercises in the afternoon. Dr. Paul F. Douglass, former president of the American University in Washington, D. C., and now a member of the faculty of Rollins College in Florida, delivered the Commencement Address.

Mrs. Roberta Sue Conyers was the valedictorian of the class. The former Roberta Sue Sims, she is a member of the Pleasant Grove Congregational Christian Church.

As a part of the commencement activities the Science Addition to Elder Hall was dedicated. These facilities were contributed to the college by the National Churchmen's Brotherhood of the Evangelical and Reformed Church.

At the annual Alumni Banquet held on Saturday night, Miss Vera Vaile Van Cleave was honored as the outstanding alumnus of the year. Miss Van Cleave has been associated with the college since 1932 and at present serves as assistant librarian. Mr. Tap Hanson, director of industrial and public relations for the West Point Manufacturing Company, delivered the address at the banquet.

Among the graduates were the following from our Congregational Christian Churches: Miss Mary Sue Johnson, Roanoke; Miss Sarah Melissa Kelley, LaGrange; Miss Susan Ann Looser, Lanett; (all three have been student summer service workers), Mrs. Conyers, and Billy James Robinson of Roanoke, who is pastor of Elder Church, Dadeville.



REV. J. KERMIT HARRIS

Moderator



W. PRESSLEY INGRAM

Moderator-Elect

Southeast Convention Officers



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Secretary



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Regular Meetings Held By East Alabama CEA's

Sharing in at least three years of service and study in a Christian Education Leadership development throughout the country are 2,500 "Christian Education Associates" who are participating in a program of personal growth and leadership service designed to raise the level of leadership of the educational ministry of churches of the newly merged United Church of Christ (Evangelical & Reformed and Congregational Christian).

Fifty-one persons from the five-state area of Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee, South Carolina, and Florida and two visitors from Illinois attended a leadership workshop in Christian Education at Avon Park, Florida, January 7-12, 1962, the beginning of an area and nationwide fellowship.

Leadership for this workshop included area staff members from Florida and Georgia and five members of the National Christian Education staff from Chicago, Philadelphia, and Boston.

As the result of this first Area CEA Workshop, the "Christian Education Associates" of the East Alabama Association of Congregational Christian Churches are meeting together to continue group learning experience, sharing responsively. They met at Lanett Congregational Christian Church at 3:00 p. m. Friday, January 26th, in the basement auditorium, with Mrs. A. D. Harry as hostess. The Rev. George W. Stowe Jr., pastor of Langdale Congregational Christian Church, led a group discussion on Dr. Roger L. Shinn's document, "The Educational Mission of

Our Church." Members present were Rev. and Mrs. George W. Stowe Jr., Langdale, Ala., Mrs. J. R. Brackin, Headland, Ala., Rev. Bill Robinson, Roanoke, Ala., Miss Kathryn Carpenter, Wedowee, Ala., and Mrs. A. D. Harry, Lanett, Ala.

The East Alabama group met for its second CEA sharing session on Friday, March 9, at 3:00 p. m. in the study of the Rev. Warner D. Noles, pastor of First Congregational Christian Church, Phenix City, Ala. Members present included Rev. Bill Robinson, Roanoke; Rev. and Mrs. Warren A. Blankenhorn and Rev. Warner D. Noles, Phenix City; Rev. and Mrs. George W. Stowe Jr., Langdale; and Miss Kathryn Carpenter, Wedowee. A group discussion on the needs of the church was led by the Rev. Warren Blankenhorn, pastor of Russell Woods Congregational Christian Church, Phenix City, Alabama, after which each member present was assigned a field in which to specialize. After the meeting the group moved next door to the parsonage where they enjoyed a period of fellowship and a most delicious dinner prepared by the Rev. Mr. Noles' mother, Mrs. W. T. Noles. Grace was offered by Rev. George W. Stowe of Langdale, pastor of the Langdale Congregational Christian Church. Adding to the hospitality of the evening were the delightful hosts, Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Noles and two charming granddaughters, Linda and Susan Tucker.

The next meeting for this group was held at the Langdale Congregational Christian Church, Langdale, Alabama, on Friday, May 18th, at 3:00 p. m., with the Rev. and Mrs. George W. Stowe Jr. as hosts.

Rev. Alfred G. Peacock Minister For 35 Years

The Reverend Alfred G. Peacock, a Congregational Christian Minister for more than 35 years, died on April 30 at Augusta, Georgia. Services were held in Augusta and at the graveside in the Camp Nelson National Cemetery in Kentucky.

Ordained to the ministry by the Somerset Association of Congregational Churches and Ministers in Maine on June 24, 1926, Mr. Peacock served churches in Maine, New Hampshire, Florida, and Georgia during his many years in the parish ministry. Prior to his illness he was the pastor of the First Congregational Christian Church, Columbus, Georgia.

From 1944 until 1953 he was Chaplain in the United States Army Air Force. He was a graduate of Bangor Theological Seminary in Maine.

Mr. Peacock is survived by his wife, Mrs. Faith A. Peacock, and two sons, Rev. Quentin Lee Peacock, a United Church minister serving the Mariemont Community Church, Cincinnati, Ohio, and Rodney B. Peacock, a student of the Austin Presbyterian Seminary, Austin, Texas.

Mrs. Peacock will be living with her son, Quentin, at 385 Oak Street, Cincinnati 27, Ohio, after the middle of June.

Rev. Earl V. Hand Dies At Douglas

The Reverend Earl V. Hand of Douglas, Georgia, died on Saturday, May 12, following a long period of illness.

Mr. Hand had served churches in the Southeast Convention over a period of fifteen years. In 1947 he was licensed to preach the gospel by the Georgia-South Carolina Conference and served the Baxley, Friendship, and the Bristol Antioch Churches.

In 1952 he was ordained to the Congregational Christian ministry and began his service of the Union Hill Church, Pearson, Ga. He also served the Headland, Alabama, Parish, Huguley Church at Lanett, and the Douglas, Ga. Church.

Called to Douglas in 1958, he was forced by ill health to resign after serving less than two years.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Nell Dodson Hand, two sons, Wyndal and Tony, and a daughter, Pat. Mrs. Hand and Pat continue to live in Douglas, Ga.



Left to right are: Mrs. Evelyn Blankenhorn, Mrs. Lois Harry, Rev. Warner Noles, Miss Kathryn Carpenter, Rev. George Stowe, Mrs. Alice Stowe, Rev. William Robinson, and Mrs. Bobbie Brackin. Picture by Rev. Warren Blankenhorn.

LaGrange United Church Reports Various Events

The past few months have been quite busy ones for United Congregational Christian Church, LaGrange.

An Easter Sunrise Service was held at the Callaway Stadium, and was sponsored by the LaGrange Ministerial Association. The pastor of United Church, the Rev. Floyd Carmack, read the Scripture selected for the service. It was a beautiful, but chilly morning, with hundreds attending.

The Rev. Floyd Carmack, Mrs. W. T. Foster, Mrs. Watt Kelley, Mrs. Emmett Bailey, and R. E. McClain represented the United Congregational Christian Church, LaGrange, at the annual meeting of the Southeast Convention held at Pilgrim Church, Birmingham, Alabama, April 28-29. The Rev. Charles F. McCook, professor of Religion at the LaGrange College, a native of Lizella, Georgia, and who holds degrees from Emory University and Boston University, preached at United Church in the absence of our pastor.

The Midwest Missions Tour group, now touring the South, was served lunch by the Women's Fellowship on May 1st.

The 60-Plus Club sponsored by the Missionary Circle 2 of United Church, held a "Country Store" May 5th in the social room of the church, selling homemade cakes, pies, candies, aprons, quilts, flower arrangements, canned food, hamburgers, hot dogs, French fries, and Cokes. It was quite a success and they will use the money for a trip to the mountains with members of another 65-Plus Club from Tallahassee, Alabama, June 7-8-9. The leaders of the 60-Plus Club from our church have been invited to go along as "chaperones," but I am sure it will be they who will need chaperoning.

Our own Rev. Sammy D. Nelson of Norfolk, Virginia, held a revival at Langdale Congregational Christian Church, Langdale, Alabama, May 6-12. About 30 members of our church went to hear him preach during the week. He then preached at our evening service on Sunday, May 6.

Several from our church are to graduate. Larry Kelley, Douglas Beck from LaGrange High, Patricia Poole, Chris Wright from Troup High, and Melissa Kelley from Southern Union College.

Vacation Bible School will soon start and we are looking forward to having quite a few youngsters attend. There will be nursery classes through Junior

Churches Urged To Aid Cuban Refugees

Each week 2,000 refugees from Cuba come into Miami, Florida. Already, some 90,000 men, women, and children are congregated there, waiting for a place to live.

Because of the help the churches give through Church World Service, someone is on hand to say to these new arrivals, "Bienvenidos Amigos — Welcome Friends."

But out of the 2,000 people entering, agencies have only been able to relocate an average of 500 people each week. Church World Service helps with the initial interviews, gives medical checks and care, supplies food and clothing, and helps find resettlement opportunities. In an effort to judge an appropriate share as a goal for the United Church, the Refugee and Resettlement Office of the Board for World Ministries recently set a target number of 1,500 people to be resettled in the next twelve months. Pleas are to be made through summer and fall for help in accomplishing this goal. These pleas offer three specific ways to help: (1) inform local churches of the needs of the Protestant Latin American Emergency Committee in Miami; (2) encourage the formation of community groups across the country which will sponsor a charter-flight of refugees directly to their own areas; (3) urge local churches or individuals to sponsor a refugee family. Groups wishing to help may secure information from Rev. Truman Stehr, United Church Board for World Ministries, Room 1643, 475 Riverside Drive, New York 27, N. Y.

It is no new story to read of the plight of refugees. These past years are filled with one wave after another of people fleeing from natural disasters, or from persecution or the threat of death. In 1961 alone, a United Nations committee reported an estimated 15,000,000 refugees in camps and temporary shelters, waiting for someplace to live. The difference in this story is that the refugees from Cuba wait so close to us that all we need do is put out a hand to reach them with help.

High. There will be a parade to publicize the Vacation Bible School on Saturday, June 2.

The church is raising money for a new parsonage which we hope will be completed in the near future.

Mrs. Ernest Lipham,

Southeast Regional Workshop Held At Franklinton Center

Seven women from the Southeast Convention were among the sixty-two delegates and leaders attending the Southeast Regional Workshop of the Women of the United Church of Christ, at Franklinton Center, Bricks, North Carolina, March 9-11.

During the Friday afternoon sessions, the new Pac/Kit for 1962-63 was presented, combining features of the Women's Fellowship Packet and the Women's Guild Kit. The evening session was highlighted by a World Day of Prayer Service, led by the Convention of the South women, and a "personality presentation" on world missions by the Florida Conference delegation.

"Depth and Encounter Study of the Bible" opened the Saturday program. Following a brief introduction by Miss Dorothy A. Nyland, the women met in small groups to study from one of Paul's letters.

Because of the unexpected absence of Rev. Lillian S. Gregory, the Worship and Service Workshops were combined into one, under the leadership of Miss Nyland. Local, association, and state presidents met with Mrs. Charles Gunn. Mrs. Clair V. Rhodes was the leader for the Study Workshop, which concerned itself with the Missionary Education and Christian Education emphases.

Dr. J. Earl Danieleley, president of Elon College, led a panel presentation Saturday evening on the Council for Lay Life and Work, tracing the steps of the Council's progress thus far and giving a glimpse into its possible future. Our own women of the Southeast Convention led the evening worship.

Communion Breakfast was a quiet, thoughtful occasion, as Dr. William Judson King, director of Franklinton Center, presided early Sunday morning. Following breakfast, each Workshop group presented in its own way a report to the entire Workshop of some of the gleanings from the Saturday sessions.

For further information on this very helpful Workshop, you may want to talk with one or more of the seven women who attended: Dora C. Brackin, Mrs. Carl (Ruth) Denison, Mrs. Rufus G. (Mae) Obrecht, Mrs. Arnold (Pauline) Slater, Mrs. Jesse (Helen) Stinecipher, Mrs. Harry (Harveta) Barr, and Rev. Emilie F. Pitcock.

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Mrs. Jettie Logan

Promotion

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Superintendent's Corner

Among the happy memories of my youth are those that have to do with attendance at the summer conferences for church young people. The days spent in study, recreation, worship and fellowship with other church young people, ministers and dedicated lay leaders had a decided influence upon me.

It wasn't the influence of the summer conferences alone that led me to the ministry, but they were a contributing factor. It was natural to consider a church vocation in the context of the summer conference experience.

Many of the lay church leaders in the Southern Convention now are the persons with whom I attended summer conferences.

How about your church — is it making sure its young people will have the chance to attend a church camp this summer?

* * * *

Superintendent's Schedule

June 9—North Georgia Association,
Sardis Church, Oxford, Ga.

June 10—Todd Church, Shawmut, Ala.

June 13—Convention of the South,
Talladega College

June 20—Montgomery

June 26-28—Town and Country Church
Committee of the United Church,
Franklin Center

July 8—Pilgrim Church, Chattanooga

July 8-11—Council for Christian Social
Action, Fisk University

July 15—Oak Grove Church, Pine
Mountain, Ga.

HERE AND THERE

SUMMER CONFERENCE DATES

Junior High Camps

July 15-21—Roosevelt State Park, Pine
Mountain, Georgia

July 29-August 4—Camp Ozone, Ozone,
Tenn.

Senior High Camps

June 10-16—Camp Ozone, Ozone, Tenn.

July 15-21—Roosevelt State Park, Pine
Mountain, Georgia

(For further information write the
convention office)

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MINISTERIAL CHANGES

The Rev. J. Kermit Harris, moderator of the convention, has resigned as minister of the Fredonia Congregational Christian Church, Barnesville, Ga., to accept the pastorate of the First Congregational Christian Church, Columbus, Georgia.

He will succeed the Rev. Peter Doherty, who will be retiring for the second time.

The Rev. William H. Shelton has resigned as minister of the Soddy-Daisy Congregational Christian Parish in Tennessee.

Rev. Jimmy Jerry Norred of LaGrange, Ga., was licensed by the East Alabama Association at services held on Sunday, May 27, at the Antioch Church, Roanoke, Alabama, and was installed as the pastor of the Antioch and the Forest Home Churches. We welcome Rev. and Mrs. Norred to our fellowship.

* * * *

NEWS OF THE FRENCH FAMILY

Rev. Joe French was elected president of the Southern Convention of Congregational Christian Churches at its recent biennial sessions. He is the minister of the CC Church in Henderson, N. C.

Miss Carolyn French, daughter of Rev. and Mrs. French, placed in the top one per cent of college seniors in the nation in the humanities division of the Graduate Record Examinations. In natural science she placed in the top five per cent of women college seniors in the nation.

* * * *

Mrs. May L. Flickinger of Arlington, Va., trustee emeritus of Southern Union College, recently spent a week on the campus and was present for the commencement activities.

* * * *

John T. Van Cleave, son of Dean and Mrs. A. R. Van Cleave of Southern Union College, graduated from Jackson-

Columbus United Church Celebrates Anniversary

The Women's Fellowship of the United Congregational Christian Church of Columbus, Georgia, worked with the city-wide Cancer Drive.

The oldest mother in our church, Mrs. Glenn Smith, was 84 years young on Mother's Day, May 13th, and was presented with a corsage.

The church held a revival recently that was very successful.

Our church celebrated its 57th anniversary on Sunday, April 1, 1962. It was a great occasion and was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended. The Rev. W. S. Wood is the minister. Rev. James H. Lightbourne Jr., superintendent of the Southeast Convention, was the guest speaker.

Mrs. Ruth Ward, Reporter

Mt. Olive Women Plant Shrubbery

The ladies of the Mt. Olive Women's Fellowship Circle had planned for a long time to set out shrubbery at the parsonage grounds, but plan was all. So one day Mrs. S. C. Woodall decided to do something about it. She went to Ponder's Nursery and bought azaleas, camellias and other shrubs, and she, with a little help, planted them.

The Fellowship Circle reimbursed Mrs. Woodall for the biggest part of the expense of the shrubbery.

Ruby Culpepper, Reporter

ville State College in Alabama on May 27 with high honors. He has been given a grant to work toward his Ph. D in mathematics at Auburn University. The grant begins at \$3000 and will increase each year. He will also have a fellowship to teach.

* * * *

Miss Carol Graham, Birmingham, Miss Brenda Gilbreath, Gadsden, and Bob Boyce, Crossville, Tenn., are the Student Summer Service Workers for the convention this summer.

* * * *

Rev. Samuel D. Nelson Jr., now of Virginia, recently conducted special services for the Langdale Church and preached at his home church, United of LaGrange.

* * * *

Atlanta Center, Roanoke New Hope, Langdale, Roanoke Rock Stand, and other churches have recently held homecoming observances.

The Church Builders Club Of The Southeast Convention

Church Builders Club Month

July has been designated CHURCH BUILDERS CLUB MONTH within the Southeast Convention.

Every church in the convention is urged to give its membership the opportunity to join the Church Builders Club during this month.

In order to reach its members it is suggested that each church hold a CHURCH BUILDERS CLUB SUNDAY sometime during the month and that it appoint a Church Builders Club Membership Committee or Chairman to solicit memberships from its people.

The Goal of the Church Builders Club is \$5,000. This means a minimum of one thousand memberships at \$5.00 per member must be secured. The full cooperation of every church, every minister and every church member is needed if the goal is to be met.

At its annual meeting held April 29 at Pilgrim Church, Birmingham, Alabama, the Church Builders Club selected the Russell Woods Church, Phenix City, Alabama, to be its current project.

This young church is in the midst of relocating and completing the first unit of its building program. It needs the help of the Church Builders Club.

Each church should send the list of its members who join the Church Builders Club along with a check to cover the dues collected (made payable to: Treasurer, Church Builders Club) to the Southeast Convention Office.

Organizations and groups in the churches as well as individuals can join the Church Builders Club.



FRED D. POWELL

The Officers And Trustees

Fred D. Powell — President
William A. Hodnett — Vice-President
W. Pressley Ingram — Treasurer
Warner D. Noles — Secretary

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Mrs. James T. McAdams
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Rev. A. Ray Meserve
Rev. Wm. M. McCullars
Rev. Earle H. Temple Jr.
Rev. John D. Schofield

The Church Builders Club

The Church Builders Club began as an idea among the churches of the South Georgia Association and leaders who were greatly concerned with the need for a more effective program of church extension among our Congregational Christian Churches in this area.

It was organized August 30, 1953, as The Gideon Club of Church Builders. The primary leader in the movement was Rev. W. C. Carpenter, who served the club for several years as secretary and membership treasurer.

The following year the club changed its name to the Church Builders Club because of confusion over the name Gideon.

The purpose of the club is "to bind together followers of Jesus Christ for the purpose of sharing the task of building His church within the fellowship of the Southeast Convention of Congregational Christian Churches."

The plan of the club is relatively simple. "Membership in this club is open to all who wish to promote the building of new churches and are willing to pledge themselves to contribute \$5.00 or more for each new church project approved by the governing body or membership of the Club . . . The maximum number of projects to be approved for one calendar year shall be two (2)."

In consultation with the Committee on Survey and Church Aid of the Southeast Convention, the Club chooses its projects. Members are then requested to contribute \$5.00 to the Club for each project and no more than two projects can be designated per year.

The constitution provides that no project shall receive more than \$5000. The club retains 15% of the monies raised to meet the costs of promotion and administration.

Since the club came into being the Congregational Christian Church of Douglas, Georgia, the First Congregational Christian Church, Tifton, Ga., and the Brookmeade United Church, Nashville, Tenn., have been assisted.

The club is governed by its officers, its nine elected trustees and by its membership assembled in annual meeting. The annual meeting is held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Southeast Convention.

The Church Builders Club idea now is widely used by other state conferences in our fellowship and by other denominations.

Application for Membership

IN

The Church Builders Club of the Southeast Convention

Name _____

Address _____

Church _____

Dues . . . \$5.00 payable with this application.

Russell Woods New Project Church Builders Club

The Russell Woods Church

On September 4, 1957, a group of approximately 25 lay persons interested in starting a new church of our fellowship in Phenix City, Alabama, met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Freddie Foster.

Out of this meeting there came the resolution to begin construction of a building that could be used for worship and Sunday School. Within a week's time, land had been secured in the Russell Woods Subdivision and the ground was broken for the new building.

Construction progressed rapidly, and by October 5 of that year the new structure could be used.

By this time, with Rev. J. N. Rumph, a member of the group, serving as acting pastor, the young church could count forty-three members on its roll. Delegates were sent to the annual meeting of the East Alabama Association on October 16-17, seeking membership in the association and recognition as a Congregational Christian Church.

The wishes of the group received favorable action by the association. On October 27 the first formal service of worship was held in the new building, and on November 10 Dedication Services were held with more than 100



members and friends present. By this time the membership had grown to 76.

In October of 1958 Rev. Herbert Long was called as the first full-time minister of the church. Under his leadership plans for expansion on the original site were developed. Then there came the news that the new highway probably would run through the property. This, of course, created problems for the church.

Mr. Long resigned as minister of the church in June of 1960 in order to continue his ministerial education at Bangor Theological Seminary in Maine.

The church next called Rev. Warren A. Blankenhorn as minister and he assumed his duties as pastor in November of that year.

Under his leadership the church has taken significant steps of progress. He has led the church in its program of relocation and new building. New life is felt in the various organizations of the church.

Last fall the church secured property not far from the original location and started its new building. As the picture indicates, it is well on the way to completion. The church now has a membership of almost 100 and looks to steady growth in its future home.

The New Building

The Russell Woods Church is located on the top of a hill on 23rd Court in the Russell Woods Sub-Division in Phenix City.

The new building is on a lot 300 by 135 feet and the church has a two-year option on an additional lot 135 by 100 feet.

Under construction is the educational unit. Plans call for the future construction of the church auditorium and additional facilities.

The educational unit contains eight Sunday School Rooms (six of which are 12 by 12 feet and two are 12 by 24 feet), a fellowship hall 42 by 36 feet, a kitchen 16 by 12 feet, two rest rooms and a janitor's closet.

The fellowship hall will be used for the Sunday Services of Worship until the additional facilities are completed.

As can be seen from the picture, the church is of interesting design with brick and block walls. It is estimated that the value of this unit will be \$40,000 — but because of contributed labor the actual cost will be around \$25,000.

Russell Woods is an exciting and worthy project of the Church Builders Club.



REV. WARREN A. BLANKENHORN